

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A halogen-free method for cleaning food processing equipment, comprising contacting the equipment with

- 1) a cyclic nitroxyl and one of a peracid or hydroperoxide reoxidator, or with
- 2) a ~~nitrooxenium~~ nitroxonium compound.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the reoxidator is a peracid or a salt thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the peracid is peracetic acid.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the peracid is persulphuric acid.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the peracid is produced *in situ* from hydrogen peroxide or from compounds releasing hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the hydroperoxide is hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a metal complex or an oxidative enzyme.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the reoxidator is used in an aqueous solution in a concentration of 25-2500 ppm.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 11, wherein the cyclic nitroxyl compound is 2,2,6,6,-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO) or a 4-hydroxy-, 4-acyloxy- or 4-~~acrylamino~~ acylamino derivative thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the nitroxonium compound has been prepared previously using a metal complex or an oxidative enzyme.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 11, wherein ~~the filter~~ the equipment comprises is a membrane filter.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the peracid is produced *in situ* from hydrogen peroxide or from compounds releasing hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the peracid is produced *in situ* from hydrogen peroxide or from compounds releasing hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the hydroperoxide is hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a metal complex or an oxidative enzyme.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the hydroperoxide is hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a metal complex or an oxidative enzyme.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the reoxidator is used in an aqueous solution in a concentration of 25-2500 ppm.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the reoxidator is used in an aqueous solution in a concentration of 25-2500 ppm.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein the reoxidator is used in an aqueous solution in a concentration of 25-2500 ppm.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the reoxidator is used in an aqueous solution in a concentration of 25-2500 ppm.